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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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TO   : [   ]

        OGC/LC

DATE: 30 March 1964

FROM   : Chief, Interrogation Research Division

SUBJECT: Use of polygraph by the Federal Government
(Preliminary Study)

1. First, let me say I appreciate very much your obtaining this for me and I have read it very thoroughly. As you say, there is little that can be said at this point; however, I really only found a couple of points that I would like to make which you might pass on to your contacts.

2. On Page 8, line 9 of this study, it states "The National Security Agency is the sole organization indicating that handling polygraph tests is the primary duty of any of its employees." Yet, on Page 22 in answer to question 3a, we stated "All who are authorized to conduct polygraph tests do so as a full-time job."

3. Note on Page 10, paragraph 3, "Review of polygraph use," question D in the questionnaire reads, "Who makes the initial determination to use such devices and is this initial determination subject to review by higher authority in each case?"

4. On Page 10, line 12, the report states "One reported exception to this review practice was the CIA. That Agency apparently considers a system of review for each instance of polygraph utilization as unnecessary since the Director of Central Intelligence Agency has established the policy that all applicants and employees will be afforded polygraph examination as a part of security screening procedures."

5. I would like, if you are able, for you to point out to your contact on the committee that a successful polygraph requires, in each instance of testing, a very careful review in order to ascertain whether or not the person is physically, mentally, and psychologically capable of being tested.

6. I felt a comment regarding "review" is necessary in that the deductions by the writer of the study indicate a somewhat greater depth to the question than is apparent on the surface, as all polygraph cases are subject to review to ascertain whether or not testing is appropriate.

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